STANHOPE
URBAN SANITARY DISTRICT

Annual Report

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR 1896.

Bishop Auckland:
W. J. CUMMINS, EAGLE PRINTING AND LITHOGRAPHIC WORKS.

1897.

Stanhope Urban Sanitary District.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health for 1896.

To The Stanhope Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,—I beg to submit to you my annual report for 1896, the Vital Statistics in which have been calculated on an estimated population of 1,935.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Population.	Birth Rate.	Death Rate.	Zymotic Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate.	Consumption.	Other Lung Diseases.
1896	1,935	26·8	11·3	1·0	57	1·5	1·5
1895	1,900	30·5	22·6	3·1	137	4·2	3·2

During the year, 24 deaths were registered (compared with 53 in 1895), two of which were of persons not belonging to the district—one from Wolsingham, the other a tramp from Longtown in Cumberland, both dying in the Workhouse. This leaves a total therefore of 22 for the district, a rate of 11·5 per 1,000.

The following are the ages at death:—Under 1 year, 3; 1 and under 5, 1; 5 and under 15, none; 15 and under 25. 2; 25 and under 65, 10; over 65, 8.

Infectious Disease.—There were two deaths from Infectious Diseases, viz., 1 from measles, and another from typhoid.

Infant Mortality.—Three deaths occurred in children under 1 year, one from bronchitis, another from convulsions and another from syncope.

Phthisis.—Consumption caused 3 deaths.

Other Lung Diseases caused 3 deaths—2 from bronchitis, and one from pneumonia.

Births.—During 1896 there were registered the births of 25 males and 27 females, a total of 52 compared with 58 in 1895, and 49 in 1894.

Tables A and B are attached.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Typhoid Fever.—One fatal case occurred in November. The patient's bed was destroyed and the house disinfected.

Diarrhœa was prevalent during July, August and September, and a few cases occurred in the month of April.

Measles.—Two cases occurred in January, one of which proved fatal. Numbers of cases of Rötheln measles appeared in June all of a very mild type.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Water Supply continues good and plentiful.

Dwelling-houses.—Eight new houses have been completed during the year, out of twelve. The remaining four are still in course of building. Three other houses are in course of erection, and a house of four tenements is being converted into one of three tenements.

Excrement Disposal.—Any nuisances found as a result of house-to-house inspection have been reported, and these have all been attended to. Complaint has arisen as to certain persons emptying ashpits into the street, where the filth has been allowed to lie for part of a day, to the danger of the passers by. The

Authority ought to enforce their Byelaws in this connection for the prevention of nuisances. Such nuisances might be easily combated by your authority undertaking the systematic scavenging of the district.

As regards SEWERAGE and HOUSE DRAINAGE, COW-SHEDS and DAIRIES, I would refer your Authority to previous reports.

Inspections and Results.—Two systematic house-to-house inspections have been made with the Inspector of Nuisances, which were fully reported on to your Authority. The general conditions of ashpits &c., was found to be much in advance of former years. Fifteen notices, ten written, and five verbal, were given for the removal of ashes, &c., from privies and ashpits, which were all attended to. Four notices, all written, were given for structural defects; three were attended and one remains unattended to. Six written notices were given for defective yard traps, of which four were attended to.

Sanitary Improvements during the year.—

1. Seven cottages in Back Lane, belonging to the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, have been provided with spacious back yard accommodation, and every sanitary convenience, including new drainage with through ventilation and automatic flushing arrangement. Each house has separate yard, coal-house, and privy.

2. Four defective yard traps have been replaced with proper earthenware traps.

3. One defective drain has been re-constructed with new pipes and yard trap.

4. One old ashpit and privy has been re-constructed and put into proper condition.

5. One old privy and midden ashpit has been replaced by water-closet and dust-bin.

6. One old midden ashpit has been cemented and concreted at bottom.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

1. New Byelaws.
2. Means of isolation and a disinfecting apparatus.
3. Adoption of the Notification of Infectious Diseases Act.
4. Registration and Regulation of Dairies and Cowsheds.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. GRAY.

February 13th, 1897.

STANHOPE

Urban Sanitary District.

Annual Report

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

FOR 1897.

Bishop Auckland:

M. Braithwaite & Son, "Caxton" Printing Works.

1898.

To the Stanhope Urban District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

The following is my Annual Report for 1897. The Vital Statistics have been calculated on an estimated population of 1960.

VITAL STATISTICS.

	Population	Birth Rate	Death Rate	Zymotic Rate	Infant Mortality Rate	Consumption	Other Lung Diseases
1897	1,960	29·0	11·2	1·0	35	1·0	1·5
1896	1,935	26·8	11·3	1·0	57	1·5	1·5
1895	1,900	30·5	22·6	3·1	137	4·2	3·2

During the year twenty-five deaths were registered for Stanhope—eleven females and fourteen males. Three of these were of paupers in the Workhouse belonging to Tow Law. This leaves therefore twenty-two for the Urban District, a rate of 11·2 per 1,000.

The following are the ages at death :—Under one year, 2 ; one and under five, 1 ; five and under fifteen, 1 ; fifteen and under twenty-five, 2 ; twenty-five and under sixty-five, 10 ; over sixty-five, 9.

Infectious Disease.—There were two deaths from Enteric Fever in September.

Infant Mortality.—Two deaths occurred in children under one year—one from Atelectasis, the other from Premature Birth—giving 3·5 per 100 Births registered, or an Infant Mortality Rate of 35 compared with 160 for the County last year.

Phthisis.—Consumption caused 2 deaths.

Other Lung Diseases caused 3 deaths.

Births.—During 1897, 57 Births were registered, 34 males and 23 females, a total of 57, compared with 52 in 1896, giving an increased Birth rate of 29 per 1000.

Tables **A** and **B** are attached.

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The Infectious Disease Notification Act was adopted for the District and came into force on July 19th. Since then eight cases have been notified, 5 of Typhoid Fever and 3 of Erysipelas.

Typhoid Fever.—During the year eight cases occurred.

Cases 1 and 2 were imported, one from Spennymoor in January, and the other from Newcastle in March.

Case 3 began in April and probably caught the Infection from a large foul privy midden of very defective construction in close proximity to the house. The conditions were fully reported to you at the time, and the premises were shortly afterwards put into a proper Sanitary state.

Case 4 was notified in August, and occurred in the same part of the district as the last and was evidently due to a like cause. Steps are only now being taken to remedy the defects.

Cases 5 and 6 occurred in September in East Lane. The conditions here were fully reported at the time, but nothing has yet been done.

Cases 7 and 8 occurred during October in children who evidently caught the infection together from a recently opened drain.

Cases 4 and 5 proved fatal

Every precaution to prevent the spread of Infection was taken. The Sanitary surroundings were carefully inspected and fully reported to the Council. Where Ashpits were faulty—and this was so in 3 cases—the pits were cleaned and disinfected. The excreta in every case were buried. The bedding after use in the worst cases was burned. The rooms in 4 cases were fumigated under the supervision of the Inspector: while other 3 houses were disinfected by washing under my own supervision,

As regards cause the six cases were all attributable to insanitary conditions. In cases 3, 4 and 6 the ashpits were very defective and the yard drains untrapped.

Influenza was prevalent during February and October.

Measles.—Three isolated cases appeared during July and August, all imported.

Diarrhoea was very prevalent during August and September but caused no deaths.

Whooping Cough.—Two cases appeared during October resulting in the disease becoming very prevalent during November. During December only ten cases were known.

Erysipelas.—One case occurred in March. One was notified in August and other two in November.

GENERAL SANITATION.

Water Supply.—The supply is still plentiful, of absolutely pure water without any possible risk of contamination. The service to certain groups of houses would be much improved by relaying mains from Back Lane Cottages to the Square and Cowgarth Hill; and by new pipes along Albert Terrace. More fire-plugs are required in order that your Council might properly cope with any outbreak of fire.

Disposal of Excrement and Scavenging.—The large ash-pit and privy is still the most common way for disposal of excrement, but their number is much less than in former years, the worst types being reported on fully to you with recommendations which have been usually carried out. Their contents are carted away by farmers in the district at very irregular intervals, a most inconvenient arrangement during the summer months, when the need of regular scavenging is specially required. Complaint has again arisen during the year of the emptying of ashpits into the street where the filth has lain for some time to the danger of passers by. Public systematic scavenging by the Council would obviate all the difficulty and no doubt would add materially to the Public Health.

Disposal of Household Refuse.—Most of it finds its way into the river or its tributaries. A place for rubbish disposal might still, and ought to be found near the district.

Sewerage.—The west end and middle sections work fairly satisfactorily, a great difficulty being to prevent the large quantity of soil and quarry debris which finds its way into the pipes.

The outflow pipe from the tank of the east end section has at length become blocked, but I believe this matter is having the attention of the Council.

Proper means of ventilation are still wanting, a most noticeable feature of the district being the number of down pipes which enter directly, and are practically the only means of ventilating, the sewers.

House Drainage.—The old stone drains have in great part been done away with, sanitary pipes, properly trapped, taking their place.

Burial Grounds.—Sufficient for present and immediate future requirements.

Bye-Laws.—New Bye-Laws are urgently needed for the Regulation of Nuisances and for New Streets and Buildings. If this were done owners of houses would not incur the hardship of having to put their property twice into Sanitary condition, the present Bye-Laws being quite out of date and useless.

Dwelling Houses.—Seven new houses have been completed during the year with good sanitary arrangements. One house is in course of erection. Seven houses are back to back. Six houses have no ashpits and about 25 % of the houses have water-closets distributed as follows to the sewers :—west end, 25; middle, 29; and east end, 50.

The yards are only indifferently paved in many cases and spouting is very often most conspicuous by its absence.

Slaughter Houses.—Are four in number and are kept clean and well ventilated. The meat has been inspected and found good.

Inspections and Results.—Systematic Inspections with your Inspector have been made on several occasions, and fully reported to the Council with my recommendations thereon. As a result 44 notices have been given by your Inspector, 11 were formal, 2 by

letter and 31 verbal. With the exception of 3 all the notices given have had attention. Twenty were for structural defects of traps and house drains, eight were for structural defects of privies and ashpits, while eleven were for choked traps, drains and deposits (liquid, etc.) caused by occupiers. The five remaining were for over-full ashpits.

Sanitary Improvements during the Year:

1.—Two new privies and one ashpit have been erected, properly concreted, covered in and ventilated.

2.—Seven old ashpits have been reconstructed with proper doors and coverings.

3.—Five old privies have been converted into water-closets with proper drains and flushing provision.

4.—New Sanitary pipe drains have been laid down at no less than 16 dwelling-houses and properly trapped.

5—Six new earthenware traps have been provided to untrapped drains in the district.

6.—The sewer behind Albert Terrace has been reconstructed and laid to a better gradient, ventilated by a 4 inch cast iron pipe above the roof of the end house, an automatic flushing chamber of 150 gallons capacity being provided.

SANITARY REQUIREMENTS.

1.—Bye-Laws based on L.G.B. Model.

2.—Some means of Isolating Infectious Cases.

3.—Registration and Regulation of Dairies and Cowsheds.

4.—Place for Refuse Disposal.

5.—Public Systematic Scavenging.

6.—An improvement of Eastern Sewerage Section by new settling tank, with large ingress and egress pipes; or by irrigation.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JNO. GRAY.

January 14th, 1897.

M. Braithwaite & Son, "Caxton" Works, Bishop Auckland.